



(a nonprofit  
organization,  
founded in 1978)  
<http://stemd.org>

# Foundation for Science and Disability Newsletter

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## Student Grant Awardees since 1990

1990	Wendy Pava, Birgit Wolz, Elaine Hall
1991	Kevin Wilkins, Shan Ming Lee
1992	Meghal Antani, Lynn Hanninen, Mara Frohlinger
1993	David Fass, William Hylton
1995	Chris Tromborg
1996	Anne-Michelle Singleton
1997	Leslie Harper
1998	Maura O'Modhrain
1999	Joseph Barbera, Byunggyoo Kim
2000	Jennifer Last
2001	Cassandra Quave
2002	My Lien Nguyen
2003	Mark Woods
2004	Jessica Mahood
2005	Cheryl Fogle
2007	Melodi King
2008	Ryan McKindles
2009	Emma Sacks
2010	Shaun Kane
2011	Lisa Dunning
2012	Kim Yeoman
2013	Naomi Delventhal
2014	Amy Nichols
2015	Rosemarie Figueroa
2016	Heather Page
2017	Rachel Wiley
2018	Cynthia Bennett
2019	Helen Rottier

## Student Grant Awardees, contd.

2020	Lana Frankle
2021	Kyle Grosser

## President's Corner

--Richard Mankin

So much news over the last 18 months! How about a piece of good news to start? Some of us may be able to take advantage of this article about student debts for those with severe disabilities:

<https://apnews.com/article/education-32f68a2779c8f3366e7c7499a1f39afc>

Or we could start with reports from previous Graduate Student Grant Awardees, Lana Frankle, Helen Rottier, Kyle, Grosser, and Cassandra Quave. Dr. Quave is an Associate Professor at Emory University. Recently she wrote a book, "The Plant Hunter." It is full of information about ethnobotany, and medicinal plants, and includes personal narratives about being a human, a woman, and a researcher with a disability. I enjoyed reading it and highly recommend it. She wrote to us: "The FSD made such a positive impact on launching my career and I'm so thankful for the support that came at the time I needed it most! I'm excited to share the book with you all when it comes out this October."

There are meeting minutes, treasurer reports and more to follow. Enjoy!

*Richard Mankin*

## August 2021

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FSD is an  
affiliate of the  
American  
Association for  
Advancement of  
Science (AAAS)

The next FSD annual  
meeting will be in  
Philadelphia, PA during  
the AAAS annual  
meeting, Feb. 10-13,  
2022

## Notes from students and colleagues

Kyle Grosser, the 2021 recipient of the Foundation for Science and Disability Graduate Student Grant, sent us a report on his first year at the University of North Carolina:

My research focuses on statistical methodology associated with research on neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease and Huntington's Disease. In the health sciences, we rarely encounter data sets which are complete. Rather, we must often grapple with incomplete data sets. One example of missing-ness is known as censoring. When a variable of interest is not exactly known but is known to lie above some threshold, we say that the variable has been right-censored. Similarly, when a variable is only known to lie below some threshold, we say that it has been left-censored.

While methods have been developed to handle censored response data, the path forward is less clear when we encounter censored covariates. A common solution is known as imputation, wherein we replace a censored value by an 'educated guess' of its true value. However, many of the imputation procedures that have been proposed for censored covariates rely on several assumptions to guarantee desirable properties such as asymptotic unbiasedness (consistency) and low variability. The new, semiparametric method that I am currently constructing with my advisor relaxes several of these assumptions and more flexibly achieves these desirable properties.

The FSD Student Award Grant has enabled me to purchase a new monitor as well as a new mouse and keyboard to go with it. The new monitor in particular has been incredibly helpful. Due to my low vision, I often need to significantly enlarge text as I read to maintain a suitable reading speed. Since the new monitor I was able to purchase with the FSD grant has roughly 4 times the surface area of my current laptop, I feel that my productivity has increased tremendously with this new device.

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Lana Frankle, the 2020 Student Grant Recipient, wrote a report of her progress on a PhD at Kent State University. I can provide copies of her Medical Hypothesis and PLoS One articles by email if you have trouble downloading them from the journal:

In the time since last March, Lana has made significant progress towards writing my prospectus and am planning to defend it this academic year. Lana also completed three new studies in that time (treating mice for two weeks, three days, and one week) and sacrificing them, before slicing, staining and imaging halves of their cortex and extracting and homogenizing tissue from the remaining halves for more western blots. She and her colleagues are still looking for markers of A1 (C3d) and A2 (Emp1) activation from these in vivo studies. The in vitro portion of her planned thesis work was delayed due to the full and then partial COVID shutdown of Kent State. However, during this time, Lana wrote the article *Expanding on possible mechanisms for tardive dyskinesia: A response to Ali, Roque, and Mallakh* published in Medical Hypotheses in September 2020 and the article: *In defense of the one-factor doxastic account: a phenomenal account of delusions* submitted to Consciousness and Cognition in July 2020 and currently under peer-review. Lana was also listed as a coauthor of the article *Increased blood-brain barrier hyperpermeability coincides with mast cell activation early under cuprizone administration* published in PLoS ONE in June 2020.

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Helen Rottier, a doctoral candidate at the University of Illinois at Chicago who was the 2019 Student Grant recipient, sent us an update on her progress:

Helen Rottier is a PhD Student in Disability Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. With support from the Foundation for Science and Disability, Helen has continued to support and empower autistic, neurodivergent, and disabled students in STEM from campuses across the Chicago area. Specifically, Helen is the student coordinator of the rapidly growing Chicago Coalition of Autistic and Neurodivergent Students (CANS) and is organizing research to evaluate group co-mentoring for autistic young adults. Helen also presents training on supporting autistic and disabled students and young adults, especially in post-secondary education, across the country and was recently consulted by the Autistic Self Advocacy Network for her work in this area. In the last year, Helen earned her MS in Disability and Human Development and completed preliminary exams for her PhD. If you are interested in more information, you can email Helen at [hrotti2@uic.edu](mailto:hrotti2@uic.edu) or connect with her on Twitter @helenrottier.

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The minutes of the FSD 2020 Annual Meeting in Washington DC are posted at <https://www.ars.usda.gov/ARSUserFiles/3559/Minutes20meeting.pdf>

Here are the minutes of the FSD 2021 Virtual Annual meeting:

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## FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISABILITY (FSD)

### Virtual Annual Meeting Minutes

2:00 -3:00 PM, Wednesday, February 10, 2021

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●Call to Order/Introductions:

Lauren Summers (EntryPoint Project Coordinator, American Association for the Advancement of Science [AAAS]) called the meeting to order. Yoshika Miwa, five visitors and three AAAS staff attended. One of the new visitors is conducting a survey of graduate students with disabilities. One runs an international program. Three of the attendees work in academia.

Lauren outlined the major recent activities of FSD including our networking activities, our support for students with disabilities in STEM disability-based programs, and our annual graduate student grant awards.

Attendees continued further discussion about how to reach out better to non-disabled faculty and employers. There was particular interest in explaining to others what individual disabled students want and need rather than pigeon-holing all disabled students into one single category.

●Treasurer's Report for 2020- (Angela Foreman, Treasurer)

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FSD began, January 1, 2020 with a balance of	<b>\$13,561.07</b>
For the year, dues and donations received were	165.00
Expenses were:            student grant	-1000.00
Final balance on December 31, 2020 was:	<b>\$12,721.07</b>

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●Science Student Grant Committee Report for 2021 – Angela Foreman and Richard Mankin, Chair

Kyle Grosser in the Department of Biostatistics at the University of North Carolina received a \$1000 graduate student grant for his doctoral research on semiparametric methods to impute the values of censored covariates.

●Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM –Respectfully submitted by Richard Mankin, February 10, 2021.

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Several recent reports by or about persons with disability have been added recently to the <http://stemd.org> web site and the Foundation for Science and Disability Reference web site (<https://www.ars.usda.gov/southeast-area/gainesville-fl/center-for-medical-agricultural-and-veterinary-entomology/insect-behavior-and-biocontrol-research/people/richard-mankin/foundation-for-science-and-disability-reference/>). Have a look when you have a minute. After a period of relative quiescence, there seems to be increasing interest by many members of the scientific community in increasing the diversity of the scientific workforce.

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**Foundation for Science  
and Disability**

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The Foundation for Science and Disability (<http://stemd.org>) was founded in 1978 to promote the integration of persons with disabilities into the mainstream of the scientific community. A major focus of FSD has been the removal of barriers that restrict opportunities to develop careers and conduct scientific research. The Foundation also provides grants to students with disabilities who are conducting research in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics.

President: Richard Mankin ([rmankin1@ufl.edu](mailto:rmankin1@ufl.edu))

Treasurer: Angela Lee Foreman ([angelaleeforeman@yahoo.com](mailto:angelaleeforeman@yahoo.com))

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**Foundation for Science and Disability 2021 Dues Notice  
Membership Application / Renewal Form**

Dues Schedule:

Student        \$5.00  
Regular        \$25.00

Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

Total            \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks out to:

Foundation for Science and Disability

and mail to:

Angela Lee Foreman

Foundation for Science and Disability

P. O. Box 3384

San Leandro, CA 94578

Please send a change of address, if any, and / or list any comments to the President or Treasurer. Also, please forward us your email address if you would like to receive pdfs of future Newsletters.

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